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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **SUGIYAMA, Kazuhiko, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 3679

Serial No.: 10/506,671

Examiner: **KEE, Fannie C.**

Filed: **April 7, 2005**

**P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 5308**

For: **PIPE JOINT**

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 21, 2007

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated **September 21, 2007**, entry of the following amendments and remarks, further examination, and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 17 of this paper.